(b) if so, the reasons for its sickness;

(c) what is the total accumulated losses of HMT;

(d) whether the losses have crossed the total capital and resources;

(e) which units of HMT are making losses and which are making profit; and

(f) whether Government have approved the restructuring plan of the HMT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The total accumulated losses of HMT as on 31.03.1998 is Rs. 102.84 Cr.

(d) The losses have not crossed the capital and resouces (Reserves) as on 31.03.1998.

(e) During 1997-98, profit making and loss making Units of HMT are as under:—

*Profit making units:*

Machine Tools Units at Bangalore, Pinjore & Kalamassery, CNC Systems Division, Bangalore; Central Reconditioning Division, Bangalore; Die Casting & Plastic machinery Division, Bangalore; Press Division, Hyderabad; Tractor Division, Pinjore.

*Loss making Units:*

Machine Tools Units at Hyderabad & Ajmer; Precision Machinery Division, Bangalore; R&D Centre, Bangalore; Printing Machinery Division, Kalamasery; Food Processing Machinery Unit, Aurangabad; Central Metal Forming Institute, Hyderabad; Watch Factory Units at Bangalore, Srinagar, Tumkur & Ranibagh; Watch Case Divisions at Bangalore & Hyderabad; Watch Battery Project, Lamp Unit, Hyderabad.

(f) HMT is yet to finalise and submit the proposal for Government's consideration.

**Law to protect Indian patents**

67. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India propose to introduce a new law to protect Indian patents; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for early protection of national interests by interaction between the scientific establishments and educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) In order to implement the obligations contained in TRIPs Agreement of WTO Agreement India has time till January 1, 2000 to amend the Patents Act, 1970 and a further time till January 1, 2005 to introduce product patent protection to areas of technologies not protected so far.

**Achievement of targets by PSUs**

68. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revamp Public Sector Undertakings to improve their performance;

(b) whether all the Public Sector Undertakings with whom MOU were entered into during the last three years to achieve targets have succeeded in their objectives;

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) In order to improve the performance of PSUs considering the multiplicity of the factors involved in the functioning of the PSUs, enterprise-specific measures are taken by the concerned Administrative Ministries for the PSUs under their administrative control. The general steps taken in this regard are given on page 134 of Volume I of Public Enterprises Survey (1996-97) which was placed before the Parliament on 8th June, 1998.

(b) and (c) The objectives of the MOUs is to help PSUs in achieving improvement in performance and to allow PSU reasonable autonomy to function. These objectives have broadly been achieved.

**Compliance of WTO ruling**

69. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether after years of dithering, India has decided to comply with the World Trade